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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NCT-01 SY-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 PRS-01
SCA-01 SCS-03 /070 W
----------1416362 035515 /41
R 1416222 FEB 76 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9000
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
INFO AMCONSUL GOTEBORG UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, AR, SW
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF SWEDISH CITIZEN IN ARGENTINA

1. SWEDISH PRESS TODAY REPORTED THAT 17 YEAR OLD RAGNAR HAGELIN, A DUAL NATIONAL HAVING BOTH ARGENTINE AND SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP, HAD BEEN SHOT AND KIDNAPPED IN THE BUENOS AIRES SUBURB OF PALOMAR ON JANUARY 27. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, EYEWITNESSES HAVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT AS FOLLOWS: TWO ARMED MEN TOOK HAGELIN OUT OF HER CAR AND ONE OF THEM, IDENTIFIED AS A POLICE CORPORAL FROM A NEARBY POLICE STATION, SHOT THE GIRL FROM BEHIND AS SHE TRIED TO RUN AWAY. THE OTHER STOPPED A TAXI AT GUN-POINT, ORDERED THE GIRL PUT INTO THE TRUNK OF THE VEHICLE, FORCED THE DRIVER TO LOCK THE TRUNK AND DRIVE OFF WITH THE TWO ASSAILANTS. THE TAXI STOPPED SUBSEQUENTLY TO PICK UP FIVE ADDITIONAL MEN WHO WERE THOUGHT TO BE WEARING BULLET-PROOF JACKETS.

2. THE GIRL'S FATHER, RAGNAR HAGELIN, CONTACTED THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES ON JANUARY 28. WHILE THE GOS BEGAIN IMMEDIATELY TO SEEK THE GIRL'S RELEASE, THROUGH

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BOTH THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE ARGENTINE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 4/26/02
XDS or XDS EXT DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM, THE GOS AND THE GIRL'S FATHER AGREED NOT TO PUBLICIZE THE CASE FOR FEAR THAT THE GIRL, IF STILL ALIVE, WOULD BE KILLED BY HER ABDUCTORS.

3. THUS FAR, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ALL GOS EFFORTS WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAVE CAME TO NAUGHT. THE MFA TAKES IT FOR GRANTED THAT THE KIDNAPING WAS CARRIED OUT BY ARGENTINE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. THE GIRL'S FATHER, WHO APPARENTLY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT HIS DAUGHTER IS STILL ALIVE, HAS SAID THAT HE HAS DETERMINED THAT THE GIRL AND DAUGHTER HAS TO MEET THAT DAY PERSONALLY RELATIVES TO THE SO-CALLED DISSIDENT MONTONEROS GUERRILLA GROUP. THE FATHER DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER HIS DAUGHTER HAS BEEN POLITICALLY INVOLVED WITH THIS MOVEMENT, BUT ASSUMES THAT IT IS THE PERSONALITY OF THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES TO CHARGE WHOM HIS DAUGHTER IS BEING HELD. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR ROE-OLSSON, KOLLBERG HAS REPEATEDLY MET, EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. WHILE ARGENTINE OFFICIALS HAVE NOT REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE CASE WITH HIM, HE HAS FAILED TO RECEIVE ANY OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE RELEASE OF THE GIRL.

4. INTERVIEWED ON FEBRUARY 13 IN STOCKHOLM BY RADENS NYHETER, ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR HUGO MARTIN GOSSIO SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO RECALL ANY GOS REQUEST OR CONTACT ON THIS CASE. THE AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE WAS HEAVILY RIDICULED IN A SEPARATE PRESS ARTICLE IN THAT PAPER TODAY.

5. DISCUSSING THE CASE WITH MFA OFFICIALS TODAY, DCM ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE FROM A HUMANITARIAN POINT OF VIEW. MFA OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE GIRL OR HER RELEASE HAD RUN INTO BLANK WALL. CONTRARY TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, MFA OFFICIALS SAID KOLLBERG

HAD BEEN INFORMED BY POLICE THAT FOUR MEN IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF A MILITARY SECURITY UNIT HAD BEEN THE ABDUCTORS. THEY SAID GOS WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE ANY INQUIRY EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES MIGHT MAKE ON HER BEHALF. KOLLBERG WOULD BE GLAD TO FURNISH FULL INFORMATION TO EMBASSY OFFICERS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IF EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AND

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DEPARTMENT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO EXPRESS SOME US INTEREST IN THIS CASE. IT WOULD BE WELL-RECEIVED HERE IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE AND THIS EMBASSY WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE.
SMITH

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